

Serial No. 09/744,046

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a closure member for covering the installation opening, the closure member made of elastomeric material, the closure member including an extension attachable to one of an interior of the housing, an exterior of the housing and the installation opening of the housing; and

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a holding member connecting the extension of the closure member to the housing such that the closure member remains connected to the housing when the installation opening is both covered and uncovered by the closure member,

the closure member configured to seal against the housing and not the extension when the closure member covers the installation opening.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is requested.

Claims 1 and 3-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. Claim 1 has been amended to conform to statute.

Claims 1 and 3-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arbeiter, U.S. Patent 5,964,123, in view of Pavely, U.S. Patent 4,712,707. The examiner states that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Arbeiter in view of the teachings of Pavely to include a plastic closure member to cover the opening in the shift mechanism to provide an easily installed resealable closure member to decrease the overall manufacture time and increase the overall convenience of gaining access to a Bowden cable.

Claim 1 has been amended to state that the closure member is configured to seal against the housing and not the extension when the closure member covers the installation opening. Arbeiter discloses a bicycle shifter that has an opening in its housing to provide

Serial No. 09/744,046

access to a Bowden cable. Pavely discloses a closure for an opening in a container. The closure includes an annular collar 9 or extension that surrounds the opening and a relatively stiff plug 10 that seals against the collar 9 and not the container to close the opening. In contrast, the present invention discloses a closure member that seals against the housing rather than against the extension. Therefore, the combination of Arbeiter and Pavely does not teach or suggest a closure member that is configured to seal against the housing and not the extension when the closure member covers the installation opening as claimed in claim 1. Thus, the rejection of claim 1 on obviousness should be withdrawn.

Claims 3-8 were rejected as claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Since claims 3-8 depend directly or indirectly from and contain all limitations of claim 1 as amended, they are felt to overcome the obviousness rejection in the same manner as amended claim 1.

This amendment is believed to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the Examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Serial No. 09/744,046

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) A housing of a bicycle shifting mechanism,
comprising:

an installation opening;

a closure member for covering the installation opening, the closure member made of elastomeric material, the closure member including an extension attachable to one of an interior of the housing, an exterior of the housing and the installation opening of the housing; and

a holding member [hingedly] connecting the extension of the closure member to the housing such that the closure member remains connected to the housing when the installation opening is both covered and uncovered by the closure member.

the closure member configured to seal against the housing and not the extension when the closure member covers the installation opening.